

UNCLASSIFIED  
Department of State

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

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3/18/81?

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INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 ICA-15 DODE-00  
10-15 NSC-05 NSAE-00 HA-05 L-03 PM-05 PA-02  
AGRE-00 ACDA-12 SP-02 SPRS-02 /112 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCSOUT; PANAMA

UNCLAS STATE 059139

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SOPH, AR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE FOR VIOLA VISIT

1. POSTS MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE IN  
DISCUSSING VISIT OF ARGENTINE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE  
ROBERTO VIOLA MARCH 15-19. BEGIN TEXT:

Q. WHAT WERE THE RESULTS OF GENERAL VIOLA'S VISIT?

A. PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE VIOLA MET WITH THE PRESIDENT,  
VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY HAIG, SECRETARY WEINBERGER,  
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS. IN THESE  
DISCUSSIONS, THE MAJOR ISSUES THAT CONCERN OUR TWO  
COUNTRIES WERE ADDRESSED, INCLUDING WORLD AND HEMISPHERIC  
ISSUES, NUCLEAR COOPERATION, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE  
WERE MANY POINTS OF AGREEMENT ON THESE ISSUES, AND THE  
VISIT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS.

Q. DOESN'T GENERAL VIOLA'S VISIT TO THE U.S. REPRESENT  
A CHANGE IN U.S. POLICIES BY REFLECTING CLOSER RELATIONS  
WITH SO-CALLED AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES AND LESS EMPHASIS  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS?

A. IT REFLECTS MORE BALANCED APPROACH IN OUR TREATMENT

OF GOVERNMENTS ACCUSED OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.  
IT REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE IN GOOD RELATIONS  
WITH ARGENTINA, A COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE SHARE BASICALLY  
WESTERN VALUES. IT ALSO REFLECTS THE VERY SIGNIFICANT  
HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN  
ARGENTINA. IT DOES NOT SIGNAL A LESSENING OF OUR  
CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS; WE CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE  
IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AS PART OF OUR OVERALL  
DIALOGUE.

Q. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE RECENT ARRESTS OF SIX HUMAN  
RIGHTS ACTIVISTS BELONGING TO THE CENTER FOR LEGAL AND  
SOCIAL STUDIES (CELS) AND THE DETENTION JUST LAST WEEK  
OF 66 MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO? WEREN'T THOSE  
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND INDICATIVE OF A STILL  
SERIOUS SITUATION? DON'T DISAPPEARANCES STILL  
CONTINUE? AREN'T THERE LARGE NUMBER OF POLITICAL  
PRISONERS?

A. WE NOTE THAT THE CELS ARRESTS WERE ORDERED BY A  
JUDGE AND THAT ALL THOSE DETAINED WERE RELEASED WHILE  
THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES. THE "MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA  
DE MAYO" WERE DETAINED BRIEFLY. WE KNOW OF NO CONFIRMED  
DISAPPEARANCES THIS YEAR. PRISONERS HELD BY THE

EXECUTIVE HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO UNDER 900 FROM OVER 5,000  
IN EARLIER YEARS.

Q. IS THE ADMINISTRATION PRESSING FOR AN ACCOUNTING  
OF THE MANY THOUSANDS THAT DISAPPEARED IN THE PAST

A. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE VIOLA'S  
REMARKS ON THIS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. THE  
ISSUE IS OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT TO THE ARGENTINES THEMSELVES  
AND IS BEING ADDRESSED IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

Q. WAS ARGENTINA'S NON-COOPERATION IN THE GRAINS EMBARGO  
DISCUSSED?

A. EAST-WEST ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED. I AM NOT PREPARED  
TO GO INTO THE SPECIFICS OF THE CONVERSATIONS.

Q. WAS THE HUMPHREY-KENNEDY AMENDMENT DISCUSSED?

A. THE AMENDMENT WAS DISCUSSED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF  
OUR MILITARY AND SECURITY RELATIONS IN GENERAL. NO  
SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS WERE MADE. THE ADMINISTRATION  
WILL PRESENT ITS VIEWS ON THIS AND OTHER LEGISLATION  
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Q. WERE NUCLEAR ISSUES DISCUSSED?

A. WE HOPE TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES IN  
THE SPRING.

Q. DID THE U.S. EXPRESS INTEREST IN THE BEAGLE CHANNEL  
DISPUTE BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND CHILE?

A. THE ISSUE DID NOT COME UP. THE BEAGLE CHANNEL  
DISPUTE IS BEING MEDIATED BY THE POPE. WE TRUST THAT  
A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND.

2. PRESS SPOKESMAN MADE EXTENSIVE USE OF Q'S AND A'S,  
READING MANY VERBATIM, AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 18.  
BEAGLE CHANNEL QUESTION DID NOT COME UP. HAIG

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

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